Under ABSC, ten additional centres have been identified during this financial year.

The induction of talented trainees in the above-mentioned schemes is a regular feature and out of these talented youngsters those who show potential are included for the national camps/participation in international competitions including the Olympics.

Planning and preparation for events like Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games is an ongoing process. Action plans for above games are prepared in consultation with the concerned National Sports Federations, National Coaches, Eminent sportspersons and Experts.

Expansion of Youth Activities at University and School Level

1431. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not formulated any imaginative schemes for youth in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to expand youth activities at the university and school level;

(c) whether any effort will be made to involve the private sector in development of sports infrastructure and games for the youth of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) Apart from the regular schemes of the Ministry, a new scheme for the Development and Empowerment of Adolescents focussing on the age group 10-19 years has been launched. Presently, National Service Scheme (NSS) is implemented through Universities/Colleges and Senior Secondary level (+ 2 Councils) in the country. The scheme is proposed to be expanded further.

(c) and (d) The government has adopted the scheme of State Sports Academy during the Tenth Plan period. The scheme envisages setting up of an Academy at the approximate cost of Rs. 9.68 crore by the Central government, State government/UT administration and a sponsor as a joint

venture in the ratio of 25:24:51. It is envisaged that the Academy would be set up as a registered society and managed by the sponsor with a view to involve the Corporate sector in promotion of sports and development of sports infrastructure.

Sports Authority of India has entered with an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has entered into an MoU with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for cooperation in the field of sports.

Government has also taken initiatives for encouraging contribution from the public and the private sector under its scheme of National Sports Development Fund (NSDF).

Subsidising Sports Equipments for Schools and Colleges

1432. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high cost of equipments and sports tools is acting as an impediment to sports development in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to subsidise sports equipments like archery and shooting equipments and gymnastics for schools and colleges and to provide sports equipments and tools of games to schools and colleges at cheaper rates;

(c) the details of plan of Government to make sports and games more accessible to talented youth in the country; and

(d) the status of such efforts by SAI and other agencies dealing with sports?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) to (b) The cost of equipments and sports tools varies from sport to sport. However, the state governments/schools/colleges can avail assistance for purchase of various sports equipments under the schemes of "Grants to Rural Schools for purchase of sports equipment and development of playfield" and "Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities & Colleges". Under the Rural schools Scheme, 100% central assistacne upto a maximum limit of Rs. 1.00 lakh for non-consumables and Rs. 25,000/-